



Docket No.: TGW-0202
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hiroya Kirimura et al.

Application No.: 10/663,673

Confirmation No.: 2468

Filed: September 17, 2003

Art Unit: 1762

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
FORMING A THIN FILM

Examiner: T. H. Meeks

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 7, 2005, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-4, drawn to an apparatus, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search of the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP 803 which is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims that are distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added).

It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and the duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Dated: February 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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